The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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PEOPLE'S GROUP IN CONGRESS CONFER WITH OTHER CITIZENS

Washington, Dec. 9.—Non-partisanship has been intensified as the result of a notable two-day conference in this city, called by the people's legislative service, Senator La Follette, chairman, and Congressman Huddleston, vice chairman.

The outstanding feature of the conference was the determination to face facts and the knowledge that the press is not invulnerable. Not the slightest resentment was shown at this. Attending the conference were many senators-elect and congressmen-elect, as well as members of congress. There was no attempt to adopt a rigid program, or to pass high-sounding, impossible resolutions, or to outlaw dissenters. Instead, each member of congress may go his own way, but if he wants to deliver effective blows for progressive legislation voluntary affiliation with the progressive group will make that possible.

The purpose of the conference was clearly stated by Senator La Follette at the opening session. He said it was intended to carry out the original plans of the people's legislative service, namely, to "prepare legislation to drive out special interests and proceed slowly and surely in that direction."

"The mandate of the last election was in favor of the progressives working together," he said, "and keeping elbow to elbow and step to step in advancing the needs of the people. We must keep advanced should be a well-grounded and sound step in the direction desired. We are not seeking to accomplish everything at one stroke."

The system of direct primaries was declared an essential that must be extended. The federal reserve act was censored by speakers from the agricultural states, especially. Senator-elect Brookhart of Iowa declared this board is controlled by "the non-partisan league of Wall street."

President Gompers attacked the courts for their assumption of authority. "It is necessary, if we aim to restore the control of our government to the people," he said, "that every attempt at judicial assumption of power or the attempt at legislation to restrain freedom of assemblage, speech and the press must be stopped." He attributed to "unquestioning allegiance to party" much of the indifference that the present and past. In breaking this power or party, he declared, was the hope of real control by the people.

In a speech that should make the care of doctors envious, Senator Medill Mcingle, Congressman Frear referred to the case with which corporations pile up surpluses and evade taxation. The internal revenue commissioner's office, which, he said, is the treasury department, is controlled by lawyers of little experience, said Mr. Frear. "The solicitor of that office, who passes on millions in taxations, was the usher in the White house only a few years ago. Why was this inexperienced boy placed in this job? And only recently he got the job on to his brother-in-law. That and other matters connected with the treasury I am prepared to prove, and I intend asking for a congressional investigation."

The conference closed with a dinner at this cafe tonight, attended by 400 men and women from every section of the country. The speakers included Senators-elect Brookhart of Iowa, Shipstead of Minnesota, Frazier of North Dakota and Wheeler of Montana. Each one told the same story of vilification and in one case threatened lynching by the agents of private interests. Senator Frazier told the same story of vilification and in one case threatened lynching by the agents of private interests. They stood to the people. A feature of the dinner was the presentation to Congressman Keating, former congressman from Colorado and a member of the labor group, in introducing Senator La Follette, who was hailed as "the leader of the progressive forces of America!"

HIGH LUMBER COSTS TRACED TO GREED

Seattle, Dec. 9.—The boasted "high cost of labor" as a reason for high lumber costs has been discredited by officers of the International Union of Timber Workers.

These trade unionists show that the labor cost is 90 cents on 1,000 shingles that were retailed in the east for $9, while 10 per cent went to labor, $3 per cent went to mill profit, the brokers and the railroads.

Several months ago a shingle packer placed a note in a bundle of shingles, asking the ultimate consumer to inform him how much the shingles cost him. The shingle packer received a letter from Wardner, Idaho, in which the writer paid $9 per 1,000 for $6,000 shingles.

"It might be of interest to know how much of this $9 went to shingle mill labor, how much to the timber barons, and how much went for mill profit, the brokers and railroads," the unionists say.

"Based on widely varying conditions, the average cost of shingle mill labor is 90 cents per 1,000 shingles. The average timber cost is $1.25 per 1,000, which in this case will leave $5.75 per 1,000 that went to mill profit, the brokers and railroads.

"The total cost to the consumer in this case was $9 per 1,000 shingles. Add to shingle mill labor went $72, or only 10 per cent; to the timber barons went $188, or 26.1 per cent; to mill profit, the brokers and railroads went $460, or 63 per cent.

"In other words, the mill owners, brokers and railroads received more than six times as much as went to shingle mill labor; the timber barons received over 2.6 times as much as went to shingle mill labor, 90 per cent of the cost to the consumer.

"Timber costs in this case were figured on prices paid to the timber barons by the mills that own timber. Those who must buy logs in the 'open market,' in cases where the mills own their timber the timber cost is much lower and the margin of profit much greater."

Nation-wide Coal Strike Was Caused by Employers

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 9.—Coal owners broke an agreement with their employes and forced the nation-wide strike last spring.

This statement was made by Secretary of Labor Davis in a speech in this city, and is at variance with the policy of public officials who remained silent on the facts or joined with the coal owners in misrepresenting coal miners during the strike.

Now, three months after the strike has ended, Secretary of Labor Davis says:

"The government tried in every way to have the coal operators keep their agreements with the miners' union.

"There were 65,000,000 tons of coal on hand when the strike was called. The operators made a cut in wages ranging from 20 to 40 per cent and posted notices of the effect.

"The men knew that if they accepted the cut they would not have any more work, and the employers knew that the men wouldn't accept the cut, but they wanted to clear out all the war supply of fuel they had on hand.

"A set of the employers were determined in their stand and there was no way for the government to relieve the situation, and the only thing to do was to wait."

CHEAPEST LABOR FOR STEEL TRUST

Washington, Dec. 9.—How the steel trust supplies its foreign market with cheap labor and intends to be paid a subsidy for shipping the commodity from China to the United States and then from this country to the foreign buyer was shown by Congressman Stevenson while discussing the ship subsidy bill.

"Section 312 of the tariff act," said the South Carolina representative, "provides for the corporation that is engaged in reducing ores and shipping metal in any form to have their smelters declared bonded smeltering warehouses by merely giving a bond to the secretary of the treasury to pay any tax due on the ores imported, and when the company exports so much metal as the ores imported should produce, the tariff charge against such ores is canceled. I am charged, and I have never heard it denied, that the United States steel corporation has very large holdings of iron ore lands in foreign countries, notably China.

"This provision will enable them to mine that ore in China with coolie labor, the cheapest in the world, to transport it to this country in their own ships, take it into their factories here without paying any tariff on it, then, by manufacture it and ship it in some subsidized ship to the foreign market and have all tariff charges canceled against it.

"What is the result of this? First, in supplying its foreign market it puts American coolie labor in direct competition with the miner in the iron mines of this country. Second, it arranges for the United States steel corporation to be able to sell to the foreigner for probably 50 per cent less than he would have to pay under the tariff, and enables it to get a ship subsidy, under this bill, on the cargo, both ways, which it carries for itself alone."

HOW GOVERNMENT AIDS ANTI-UNION RAILROADS

Washington, Dec. 9.—The attitude of government agencies toward the attempt to smash the shop men's unions is indicated by this editorial in the Machinists' Monthly Journal:

"Little or no pretense is made by the railroads to observe the federal inspection laws, and apparently the interstate commerce commission intends to make no move to compel observance of the law.

"A fair example of the attitude of the I. C. C. is found in the case of a eastern road, whose motive power is in deplorable condition. Complaint was filed with the commission that this road was using locomotives which were actually ready for the scrap heap. Inspectors made an investigation and 'blue tagged' them after engine.

"An engine bearing a locomotive engine inspector's blue tag of condemnation is taken from service until repaired, and it is a criminal offense for one to be authorized to do so to remove one of these tags. Yet the inspectors in question left the premises of this road when the tags were removed and the engines put back into service, endangering the lives of not only the employes in charge of them, but of the public as well.

"Despite this fact, the I. C. C. makes no move to prosecute the officials responsible for this state of affairs. Protests to the commission against its indifference to the situation are unavailing, and it is evident the railroads are going to be permitted to do as they please, which, after all, is not unusual."

TALKS OF "FLAPDOODLE" WHEN STORM HAS PASSED

Baltimore, Dec. 9.—In commenting on the refusal of the Western Maryland railroad to obey orders issued by the railroad labor board, a local newspaper expresses the hope that there will be no more "flapdoodle" talk about "Bolshevism" when workers refuse to obey the board's orders.

This newspaper is taking the usual tricky attitude of its kind. It remained silent while the shop men resisted the wage reductions. Now that the hysteria against the railroad strikers has spent its force, most any one can safely assume a friendly attitude toward them.

NO RELIEF IN MAGIC

Newark, N. J., Dec. 9.—"How can subsidizing ships produce cargoes?" asked the Newark Ledger.

"The government has ships which cost us $3,000,000,000 and now valued at less than one dollar and rotting on their heads in huge losses.

"What law is subsidizing these and other ships going to create cargoes for them? There is a world-wide surplus of everything. Some must perforce buy or run at a loss. A bonus to ship owners to create exemptions from taxation and lending money at a low rate cannot make ocean trade, and without that trade how are ships to be made to pay?

"Can bonuses transform a white elephant into a business asset? The assumption is ludicrous. When on the basis of any assumption so absurd new burdens are piled on the shoulders of our overtaxed people, or an effort made to do that, what must we think of it?"

SUBSIDY NO REMEDY; MARKETS ARE NEEDED

Washington, Dec. 9.—"Cargoes and not ships, freights and not subsidies are the present need," declared Congressman Fulmer of South Carolina, in opposing the ship subsidy bill.

"The war left us with plenty of ships than we can use and freighters by the score are rusting in our great harbors," he said. "This farming interests of the west and the cotton-growing south and the manufacturing east are not held from the markets of the world by lack of American ships. Our country is stifling with its own goods and the outside world is hungering and thirsting for them.

"How many supporters of this Lasker bill vote to take the government furnish the cotton and grain farmers with nitrate of soda at cost prices and thereby relieve the farmers of robbery of Grace & Co. and several other importers of soda who bought the government soda at the last year from $30 to $35 per ton and, inasmuch as they control the imports, put the price to the farmer at from $80 to $75?

"I challenge the older members of the house, who have been here for years, to work out some legislation along this line. If this is done, watch the United States steamship line, commerce and the fertilizer trust, which beat Henry Ford out of Muscle Shoals, come rushing with propaganda to defeat it."

Congressman Fulmer referred to correspondence with the department of agriculture to expand the leased-wire market service for farmers. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace agreed that this would aid the farmers, but economy deferred expending $200,000, which is the estimated cost for the service.

This service would acquaint farmers daily with prices, but the economists do not stand $200,000, said Congressman Fulmer. "But it is all right to pay out of the treasury $50,000,000 more to $100,000,000 a year to the favored few," he said.

DAUGHERTY FLAYED; IS CHEAP POLITICIAN

Washington, Dec. 9.—A man without learning and whose life work has been that of lobbyist, was one of the stinging reproaches in Attorney General Daugherty by Samuel Untermyer, New York lawyer, at a dinner attended by progressive members of congress and private citizens in this city.

Mr. Untermyer declared there was "a complete breakdown in the administration of justice" and that the Daugherty conference was the first hopeful sign "since the government has been thrown into impotency by the Harding-Penrose trusts, corporations, war and peace profiteers and other privileged and predatory interests administering our affairs."

"I have come here tonight in response to your invitation for the purpose of sounding a warning, dispassionate and without partisanship, but intensely earnest, against what I regard as the complete breakdown in the administration of justice. We are rapidly drifting toward the cataclysm which made Petrograd, instead of selecting a great lawyer for time of stress, to be a man of the most mediocre attainments was named solely on the ground of personal friendship, and ignoring the appointment of the measure of the average ward politician, who is without learning or training as a lawyer and whose lifelong environment and practical work has been that of a legislative lobbyist and nothing more.

SCIENCE WARS ON DUST

Washington, Dec. 9.—The United States bureau of mines and the public health service are conducting studies on dust in the factory district for the purpose of combatting pulmonary disease, a new instrument for sampling the aerial dust has been devised by Leonard Greenburg, assistant sanitary engineer, retired, United States public health service, and George W. Smith, junior physical chemist of the bureau of mines.

PLEADS FOR U. S. EMPLOYE

Washington, Dec. 9.—Government employes who are denied federal compensation because of occupational ills are being championed by Mrs. Bessie P. Brueggemann, chairman of the federal United States employes' compensation commission. Controller General McCarl has interpreted the law as that only those government employes who can prove an actual "injury" are entitled to compensation. The commission says the ruling is "narrow."

COMMERCE DIFFERS FROM MAKING GOODS

Washington, Dec. 9.—In sustaining a Pennsylvania law which imposes a 1½ per cent tax on the anthracite coal, the United States supreme court has again declared that there is a difference between production and interstate commerce.

This decision is of interest to labor because lower federal courts in Missouri have just held that the strike of railroad workers is an interference with interstate commerce.

Opponents of the Pennsylvania coal statute claimed that the tax burdened the interstate commerce. To this the supreme court replied:

"The remote consequence of the contention repels its acceptance. If the contention is sound, a tax upon the production of coal or a product from a state determines it to be in interstate commerce before the commencement of its movement from the state, it would seem to follow that it is immune from commerce from the instant of its growth or production, and in the case of coals, while in the ground.

"The result would be curious. It would nationalize coal, industry, it would nationalize and withdraw from state jurisdiction and control the whole coal commerce control of the fruits of California and the south, the wheat of the west, the cotton of the south, the shoes of Massachusetts and the woolen industries of other states at the very inception of their production or growth, that is, the fruits unpicked, the cotton unginned, the wheat unthreshed, hides and flesh of cattle yet on the ground, the sawlogs unshorn, and coal yet unmined because they are in varying percentages destined for and likely to be exported to states other than those of their production."

LABOR EDITOR JAILED ON CONTEMPT CHARGES

Indianapolis, Dec. 9.—A committee appointed by Saginaw (Mich.) typographical union has appealed to President McParland of the International Typographical union in behalf of Edwin H. Cornish, member of the union and editor of a labor paper who has been sentenced to four months in jail by Federal Judge Anderson.

The labor editor printed a report made in the Saginaw municipal court by Judge Tuttle told two striking employes of the Post Dispatch company, a member of the union charge them if they returned to work. The labor paper also stated that "Judge Tuttle is a member of the brotherhood of law of the president of the Pere Marquette railroad."

To secure jurisdiction in this case, Judge Tuttle claimed the statements reflected upon cases pending in his court. When Cornish was sentenced he was attacked bitterly by the courts.

In calling attention to this case the Saginaw printers make the point that the labor editor was jailed for activities not so much on the two articles as for his activities as a labor editor in opposing street car franchises, supporting strikes, etc.

REASON FOR INJUNCTION.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 9.—"The real reason for the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes is that they are the only lawful during a strike that would be perfectly lawful at another time," writes Henry F. Hilfers, secretary of the New Jersey state federation of labor.

"The courts assume that the public does not understand, and some will not understand, the attitude of trade unionists or the fundamentals involved.

"This writ issued in strike time is for the purpose of forbidding men and women to jail without trial by jury upon evidence furnished by strike-breaking detectives, agents of so-called detective agencies, and for acts alleged to be committed by the striking men that they would not be convicted under any other circumstances."

HOW LABOR BENEFITS

Washington, Dec. 9.—"I would like to know if seamen will get the benefit of this ship subsidy bill, or if the sampling lottery workers who are now on strike are getting the benefit of the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill?" asked Congressman Crisp on the floor of the house.

Mr. Crisp declared that the new bill raised pottery rates from 50 per cent to 60 per cent, yet the workers in that industry were forced on strike to resist a wage cut.

FORM BAKING COMBINE

Chicago, Dec. 9.—A recent combine of bakery companies is another big step toward monopolization of the bread market, says the Bakers' Journal. The latest combine includes the Shultz baking company of New York, the Ward a Ward, and the Campbell interests. These interests are valued at $9,000,000.

IMMIGRATION LAW REVISION OPPOSED

Washington, Dec. 9.—On his return from a western trip Secretary of Labor Davis found a constant agitation to let down all immigration bars. He said much of this agitation is based on misrepresentation of the 3 per cent immigration law.

The secretary said he was convinced many misinformed or wilful employers are using the argument that "the immigration flood gates should be thrown open to supply the demand for labor."

"This argument is fallacious for several reasons. The general impression that the so-called 3 per cent law has operated to arbitrarily limit our immigration to 3 per cent of our entire ties. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those who are now clamoring against the law are apparently studiously disregard the fact that the law would have permitted the admission of thousands of immigrants during the past two years if they had sought admission. At an time since the law has been in effect, workmen for our industries of the racial strains which have made America great, and which, up to the past two years constituted the bulk of our immigration, could have been admitted by the thousands.

"They did not seek admission. They are not coming to America. In the last fiscal year only less than one-half of the quota that would be admitted under the law have come from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and from Germany.

"Germany in the past fiscal year sent but 28 per cent of her quota; Sweden, 43.8 per cent; Norway, 48.7 per cent; the United Kingdom, 55.2 per cent, and Denmark, 57.6 per cent."

EDUCATION COMES FIRST

Washington, Dec. 9.—"What we do or fail to do in public education will largely determine the future of our governments in democracy" said J. J. Tigert, United States commissioner of education, in his annual report.

Assimilation of the foreign born, removal of illiteracy, establishment of equalities in educational opportunity and inculcation of the principles and ideals upon our form of government are problems which the educational forces of the country must meet with courage, leadership in dealing with these problems is needed more than ever before, it is stated.

The United States bureau of education is required by law to promote the cause of education throughout the country, to collect such statistics as pertaining to education, and to disseminate such information, according to the report.

HUNGRY MEN OBEY LAW

Manchester, England, Dec. 9.—There are 1,177,200 unemployed in Great Britain and the Manchester Guardian says:

"It is one of the most remarkable testimonies to the stability and essential orderliness of the British people that widespread unemployment should have continued for two years without civil disturbance. The reckless show of force by a reactionary cabinet, seeing red in every demonstration, unemployed, could easily cause a lapse into disorder. The sooner Premier Baldwin and his cabinet set to work on the question the better."

DIVIDENDS PILE UP

New York, Dec. 9.—Prairie oil and gas company, a Standard oil unit, will declare a 260 per cent stock dividend. The Standard oil company of Indiana will declare an 86 per cent dividend and increase its capitalization from $100,000,000 to $175,000,000. The Victor talking machine company has declared a 600 per cent dividend.

FARMERS' BAD YEAR.

Washington, Dec. 9.—This year farmers will get less than last year, and less than in any year in the past decade, but their purchasing power has greatly decreased, said Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in his annual report. Farm prices fell to below the two-year level, while prices remain at from 50 to 100 per cent above the 1914 level, said the secretary.

URGE FIRE PROTECTION.

New York, Dec. 9.—A survey of all laws for the protection of life and property against fire was agreed to at a conference of labor, civic and industrial organizations.

VICIOUS SUBSIDY BILL FACES SENATE FIGHT

Washington, Dec. 9.—The Washington Post, acknowledged newspaper spokesman for the administration, declares that the ship subsidy bill, as passed by the house, has been "marred by ill-considered amendments," and the senate must strike them from the bill.

These amendments reveal the utter clousiness of the bill. They provide that no subsidy shall be paid to vessels owned by large corporations, such as Standard Oil, the United Fruit company and the steel trust when carrying their own products; eliminating the section which permits the subsidizing of vessels of ships without advertisement or competitive bids; and increasing from three steamship Leviathan shall not be sold for less than the cost of reconditioning and repairing, and that bonds shall bear 4¾ per cent interest instead of 2 per cent.

These amendments were accepted by friends of the bill, who feared that it would be defeated if they rejected the amendments. The demand of the Washington Post that the senate remove these amendments indicates the real attitude of the powers behind the bill.

Opponents of the bill insist that they have won a victory. They show that the administration party has a majority of 169 in the house. This was reduced to 21 when the vote on the administration could muster.

The bill originally used the taxpayers' money for a publicity campaign for the bill, which only secured a majority of 24 in the house, and of this two dozen, four came from the minority.

Subsidy advocates say they can pass the bill in the senate "if they can force a vote." Their hope is that the opponents declare they will block a vote. In this event, the senate would practically every public-opinion molding item they will strive to lash the public into a fury and muster a majority in the senate vote on the question.

On the one hand, the leading the senate anti-subsidy fight have been victims of the manufactured publicity organized before and they will not stampede.

IMPEACHMENT CHARGES ARE FILED BY KELLER

Washington, Dec. 9.—In support of his impeachment of Attorney General Daugherty, Congressman Keller will file with the house judiciary committee 14 charges of misconduct.

One of the charges is the appointment of Burns "to head the department of justice secret service. Burns' record in convicting men in Oregon by jury-fixing is known to all the nonesse public. President Taft pardoned one of the jury-fixers upon recommendation of Attorney General Wickersham.

The Morse pardon is also mentioned, as is the granting of clemency to profiteering corporations and his corrupt appointments.

Mr. Keller's indictment begins with the charge that the attorney general has made willful and deliberate attempts to paralyze the federal trade commission by refusing to prosecute trust violations, although the commission has repeatedly called attention to the attorney general's refusals to prosecute. The attorney general is charged with too great friendship for the Harding-Penrose campaign fund, and refusing to prosecute more than 20 cases involving the electrical appliance laws that have resulted in the death of more than a dozen persons through boiler explosions. "Both sides" in the railroad strike is another item.

In referring to the shadowing of members of congress by Detective Burns, Congressman Keller said:

"I do not propose to have the witnesses shadowed by the department of the detective bureau of the department of justice, the Harding-Penrose, Burns, or Mr. Burns' private agency, especially in view of the charges made against the latter in connection with Mr. Burns. Nor do I propose that witnesses shall be terrorized, browbeaten, driven or coerced or inveigled out of the jurisdiction.

NO LABOR SCARCITY

New York, Dec. 9.—The protected interests are demanding a let-down of labor, claiming a scarcity of skilled labor, although thousands of willing workers are out, said Ernest T. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, writing in the Textile Worker.

"Any fair-minded person can very easily learn the truth of these statements if they investigate conditions in our large industrial centers," said the trade union leader.

"There are tens of thousands of strong, able-bodied men in the streets of our cities and towns seeking employment. It is the whole intent of the propaganda is to bring about a condition similar to 1912, when we had a surplus of labor, and the mills were on record in the woolen industry, though we then went to Lawrence and other parts of the mills up to that time. The effect was to give to the employers the benefit of the lower wage scale.

"We note by advertisements in the public press that workers are wanted, but when our people apply for work they are turned away because of the system of blacklist and 'gentlemen's agreements' carried out by many mill managers, who require not only your name and place of birth, but also the church of which you are a communicant.

"President McMahon stated that 'practically every state in New England is controlled by either the banking or mill interests, or both.'"

HAS $6,000,000 CASH

New York, Dec. 9.—Officials of the Erie railroad refused to comment on the headed for a receivership. They say the company has $6,000,000 cash.

It might be added that the railroad originated the scheme to contract its operating expenses by refusing to evade decisions by the railroad labor board and secure cheap labor and long hours. The railroad labor board has ruled against the system, but it continues.

WOMEN ARE LIABLE.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 9.—The state supreme court has held that the present equality brings liability in case of debts. It holds a woman is liable in her separate estate for debts of business when she indorses a note of her husband incurring financial liability for him.

IS THIS A LIVING WAGE?

Washington, Dec. 9.—The bureau of census announced that the average wage last year for 7,316 workers in the leather, gloves and mittens industry was $14.30 a week.

WANT ANTI-UNION SHOP

Baltimore, Dec. 9.—The Dannenbaum cloak company locked out its union garment workers and established the anti-union shop. Now it has a fight on its hands.

DAUGHERTY'S WRIT FAILS; SHOP MEN STANDING FIRM

Chicago, Dec. 9.—The Daugherty injunction has failed to drive railroad shop men back to the administration, and the policy now is to ignore these workers and their effort to stop wage cuts, contracting of repair work and a lowering of shop conditions.

These workers show that their movement is no longer a "strike," as they have been locked out since last July. When they accepted President Harding's peace settlement. This offer has been rejected by 57 trunk lines and 57 short lines, employing approximately 200,000 workers. These trunk lines and their "feeders" are dominated by high finance and include such systems as the Pennsylvania, Santa Fe, Reading, Burlington, Southern Pacific, Illinois Central and Norfolk & Western.

These railroads and their backers no longer control the shop men as defying government."

It would appear that when the railroads, by superhuman effort and a disregard for life and property, maintain a semblance of service, the nation is not in danger.

Attorney General Daugherty has stopped making stump speeches against the shop men and timid folk are no longer terrified by his reckless how he rescued civilization from the abyss of revolution and ruin.

The problem now is to maintain a policy of silence. This, the railroads and their allies believe, will aid them, rather than have newspapers discuss

MINE LOSS OF LIFE RESTS ON OWNERS

Washington, Dec. 9.—Practical mine workers are to claim by H. Foster Bain, director of the United States bureau of mines, that the "let-down of morale on the part of the individual miner" is responsible for increased number of accidents caused by falls of mine roofs and coal falling in the working face of the mine.

"Roofs have a tendency to 'cut' when idle," said Edgar Wallace, member of the United Mine Workers and legislative representative of the A. F. of L.

"The morale of the workers has nothing to do with coal falling at the working face. When work is started in a mine that has been idle for several months the roof will sometimes be found broken. This would not be so apt to happen if the miner was being operated and a continuous advance was being made."

Director Bain's statement has been given wide publicity in the public press, which did not overlook the inference that the miners are responsible for many mine disasters. The most disastrous explosion in recent years was at Hessner, Alabama. The miners' strike had practically no do with this disaster. The union men in that field cannot assert themselves in the mine operated continuously during the five months' strike.

The deadly explosion at the Spangler mine, Pennsylvania, is claim by H. Foster Bain.

"The director of mines must know that no individual miner can provide known preventatives for coal dust explosions," said Mr. Wallace. "Hand-loading of coal dust or the neutralizing of coal dust by spreading shale dust is necessarily the business of the management. Other preventative laws by the management can apply are: Keeping a mine clear of explosive gases by ventilation, inspection of the A. C. in the part of highly trained men in the profession of fire bosses, who should be supplied in adequate numbers by the management. No individual miner, except a fire boss, should have open lights or equipment by the management, can contribute to the neutralizing of the explosive accumulation of coal dust, or to proper ventilation which is the most dangerous accumulation of fire damp.

"Only that part of the director's report that charges impaired morale of the miners as a result of the strike has been given any publicity by the press. The rest of the report, which is a clear and true statement of risks for underground workers and the possibility of reduction of these risks, is not mentioned by the press. It has no propaganda value."

SHIP SUBSIDY TRICK

Washington, Dec. 9.—Friends of the ship subsidy bill have added amendments in the house which strikes from the bill provisions for paying a ship subsidy for the United oil company and other corporations which own their own vessels. Now it is charged that this was a trick to get the bill through, as these companies will receive the subsidy by the simple expedient of forming ship-operating companies that will "buy" these ships. The capitalists back of the oil trust and other combinations will organize these dummy corporations to buy the tankers of the oil trust and the vessels of the steel trust and the United fruit company. These so-called independent companies will then get the business of the oil trust, the steel trust and the fruit trust. They will pay the usual ocean rates and receive the subsidy from the government. The money will go into the pockets of the trust owners by way of the "independent" companies.

HOW ENGLAND DEVELOPS HER MERCHANT MARINE

Washington, Dec. 9.—"While the United States is driving skilled men from its merchant marine by placing them on the scrap heap, England is encouraging her skilled men by her policy," said President Gompers in a letter to members of congress in which defeat of the subsidy bill was urged.

"It is the wise policy of England adopted the policy of gradually getting rid of inefficient men. She is doing it by a combination between the men themselves through their organization, the shipowners through their organization, the government and the people. Officers on the vessels are selected for the men, and then they go to the office of the union to be further passed upon under a regulation known as the Seamen's register No. 5. Under this system and the process paid England is drawing to herself the efficient men and pushing the inefficient men over to us.

"When former subsidy bills were before congress the whole cry was ships, ships, ships. Give us ships and we will have a merchant marine!' Now we have the ships and the one great question is, What are we to do with them?"

Army and Navy Transports Under Private Ownership

Washington, Dec. 9.—The ship subsidy bill provides that the transporting of the country's military forces shall be in the hands of congress believing the failure of this section (501) can be appreciated when it is recalled how ocean transports were handled during the war.

The section directs the secretaries of war and navy to enter into contracts with owners of vessels registered or enrolled and licensed under the laws of the United States for such transportation as may be required by the army, navy or marine corps. Such contracts may be for a term of 10 years.

HUGE BAKERY PROFITS

New York, Dec. 9.—Directors of the General bakery company recommend that the authorized common stock be increased to 500,000 shares. At the present time the common stock is 150,000 shares, with a par value of $100 each.

The profits in this industry is indicated by the statement that the company had a surplus of $2,012,000 last December and now about $3,700,000 in Liberty bonds and $1,250,000 in cash. Last year's clear profits were $1,182,495, after all charges and preferred dividends were paid. It is expected that this year's earnings will reach $3,000,000.

The company's surplus is piling up so rapidly that the common stock must be increased so the profits will attract less attention when the company will have "spread."

TAX RECEIPTS SLUMP; HUGE PROFITS ESCAPE

Washington, Dec. 9.—The treasury reports that the nation's taxes are $466,205,414 less than last year. Among the decreases are those on profits of 1921. Those items brought only $29,434,464 in October, whereas one month last year they brought $42,250,270.

This tax receipt slump can be traced in large measure to the failure to levy on excess profits tax and the lowering of the higher rates of income taxes.

Recently it was announced in Wall street that within 30 days 41 corporations divided $2,119,000,000 in cash and stock dividends.

The present unparalleled distribution of cash and stock dividends indicate the prosperity for the comparative few.

While the excess profits tax has been repealed the income tax law authorizes the secretary of the treasury to levy a 25 per cent tax on the annual profits of a corporation which accumulates profits to accumulate beyond the reasonable needs of the business. The secretary has not been able to levied on many of these profits, which are being hastily distributed in stock dividends before the new congress can place a tax on huge undivided surpluses.

These stock dividends are the best proof of inordinate profits, and since they have been legalized by the United States supreme court they are the evasion by which the tax is to be avoided.

Stock dividends also mean that the public is compelled to pay excessive rates because the profits are held free, instead of stockholders, who should contribute this capital.

SEDALIA CITY COUNCIL OPPOSE STRIKEBREAKERS

Sedalia, Mo., Dec. 9.—Attempts by the citizens' alliance to import strikebreakers to operate the railroad shops have been condemned by the city council.

"We have had enough of the 'Osage' days of lynching and the associated evils of such importations," the resolution declares, "that when these strikebreakers are turned loose upon the streets the crime wave of crime has followed in their wake as a majority of them are the ex-convicts of the slums of the larger cities."

The council denies the authority of public officials are not enforcing the law and closes its resolution with the declaration that it "does hereby condemn the bringing of armed bands of questionable character upon the streets to overawe and intimidate peaceable and law-abiding citizens of many years standing."

MORE PROFITEERING DUE

New York, Dec. 9.—It is stated that the price of coal will be advanced from 25 to 50 cents a ton because Pennsylvania coal tax which has been upheld by the United States supreme court. The tax is 1½ per cent on the value of coal at the actual mine, which in the coal trice will be 12.2 cents per ton, according to the general committee of anthracite operators.

WANT LABOR LAW CHANGE

Vancouver, B. C., Canada, Dec. 9.—Organized carpenters want the compensation law changed to exempt them from private contractors. They show that 21 per cent of their injured members do not receive compensation because they work for employers who are exempt from the law.

PLUMBING LAW ILLEGAL

Littleton, Col., Dec. 9.—County Judge Dunn has declared illegal the action by which delegates to the state board of plumbing inspectors the power to revoke and withhold licenses from plumbers.